



Energy & Commerce's bipartisan letters (2/15/18) to McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen

E&C first wrote McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen, which are the three largest drug distributors in the U.S., in [May 2017](#), asking a series of questions about their distribution practices in West Virginia. At that time, the committee also wrote to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) about the enforcement practices and strategies to combat the opioid epidemic. Since last May, the committee has also probed [two additional distributors](#), Miami-Luken and H.D. Smith.

Summary of (2/15/18) letters:

- **These three letters combined pose more than 70 questions and include more than 40 requests for documents.**
- The three letters contain many similar requests. For example, the committee leaders have requested: the minutes of board meetings; results of internal or external investigations related to suspicious order monitoring; an accounting of customer orders from West Virginia that exceeded limits set by the distributor, including any explanation about why the product was released for shipment; and actions taken by each distributor in response to a series of letters from the DEA in 2006 and 2007.
- The three letters also ask each distributor to provide a list of its 10 largest pharmacy customers in West Virginia, based on hydrocodone and oxycodone dosage units, including the total dosage units distributed each year from 2006 through 2017, and for documents related to the due diligence files of pharmacies central to the committee's investigation, collectively including Westside Pharmacy, Family Discount Pharmacy, Tug Valley Pharmacy, and Sav-Rite Pharmacy.
- The committee's letters disclose the total amount of opioids distributed to Family Discount Pharmacy, with locations in Mount Gay-Shamrock and Stollings, West Virginia (letter to McKesson, page 5).
 - **The Family Discount Pharmacy location in Mount Gay-Shamrock, West Virginia, received 16,591,280 doses of hydrocodone and oxycodone between 2006 and 2016.** The location in Stollings received an additional 3,696,600 doses in the same time period.
 - According to 2010 Census data, Mount Gay-Shamrock's population was 1,779, and Stollings' population was 316. Combined, these two locations combined received 20,287,880 doses of hydrocodone and oxycodone.
- The letter to McKesson includes information about the company's distribution to two pharmacies at the heart of the committee's investigation:
 - McKesson shipped nearly 5 million opioids to Sav-Rite Pharmacy No. 1, a pharmacy in a Kermit, West Virginia, with a population of 406 people (letter to McKesson, page 2).
 - In 2006, McKesson shipped 2,211,630 hydrocodone pills and 78,500 oxycodone pills to Save-Rite Pharmacy No. 1. This means that McKesson shipped an average of 184,303 hydrocodone pills per month. **Applying DEA data, it can be determined that McKesson supplied 76 percent of Sav-Rite Pharmacy No. 1's hydrocodone pills in 2006.**

- In 2007, McKesson shipped 2,624,680 hydrocodone pills and 40,900 oxycodone pills to Sav-Rite Pharmacy No. 1. This is equivalent to an average of 218,723 hydrocodone pills per month.
 - McKesson did not supply opioids to Sav-Rite No. 1 between 2008 and 2010. **However, McKesson resumed supplying opioids to Sav-Rite No. 1 after federal authorities began investigating the pharmacy, and after press accounts publicized law enforcement raids on the pharmacy** (letter to McKesson, page 3).
- McKesson was a top supplier of Family Discount Pharmacy in Mount Gay-Shamrock, West Virginia (letter to McKesson, page 5).
 - **Between 2006 and 2014, McKesson supplied Family Discount Pharmacy in Mount Gay-Shamrock with 5,122,920 hydrocodone pills, and 695,100 oxycodone pills, for a total of 5,818,020 pills.** McKesson also provided the Stollings location with 2,102,880 hydrocodone pills, and 272,580 oxycodone pills, for a total of 2,375,460 pills. The two pharmacies are located approximately three miles apart.
 - McKesson's distributions to the location in Mount Gay-Shamrock varied considerably in this time period (letter to McKesson, page 6).
- The letter to Cardinal Health also includes information about its distribution to two pharmacies central to the committee's investigation.
 - Cardinal Health was a top supplier of Family Discount Pharmacy in Mount Gay-Shamrock, West Virginia (letter to Cardinal Health, page 2).
 - **Between 2008 and 2012, Cardinal Health supplied Family Discount Pharmacy with over 6.5 million hydrocodone and oxycodone pills.** This means that Cardinal Health shipped an average of 3,561 hydrocodone and oxycodone pills every day to this single pharmacy in rural West Virginia.
 - Cardinal Health was one of the major suppliers of hydrocodone and oxycodone for Hurley Drug Company, located in Williamson, West Virginia, population 3,191 people (letter to Cardinal, page 3).
 - Between 2006 and 2016, distributors shipped more than 20.8 million hydrocodone and oxycodone pills to this town.
 - In 2006 alone, Cardinal Health provided Hurley Drug Company with 739,800 hydrocodone pills.

To learn more about the committee's ongoing investigation into alleged pill dumping in West Virginia, click [HERE](#).

To learn more about the committee's overall efforts to Combat the Opioid Crisis, click [HERE](#).